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Dear Bill,

I wish I had the dough to phone you, even on my probably bugged phone, for your voice and that of Maggie's were comforting and good. I have just returned from a New York trip and have spent the day in letter that I had to write. I so hate moments away from WHITEWASH II, so near completion of the draft. All the major chapters are done, in onef form or another.

I need nothing from Willis. If he fails to answer my last letter it is almost as good as if he answers. I would like only what Lillian promised, especially the good print of #5, but with her problem I have not written her and I shall not. There are things that time could improve; but time makes other problems, onem of which is plagiarism. I gave Viking, in confidence, my chapter "The Dubious Kennedy Inquest" for their protection against attack and they have sold its documentation of Bantam and are spreading it in the trade in New York. Popkin has just claimed it as a major discovery (of his) in Paris. He has done a book The Second Oswald that the New York Review is publishing! From London Evening Standard 8/26.

What I really need, or will soon, is what I cannot pay for: good editing by a trustworthy person. I have an offer for the book already, from a magazine house that thinks it can make arrengements for adequate distribution. It is owned by the family of a reporter who interviewed me. It is a package offer, both books. I haven t taken time to analyze it. It has been verbal until today, when I got it by mail. I've been too busy bettling to read it carefully.

The situation is drawing to a head rapidly, I believe. Some of my nonn-literary work is bearing fruit, I believe. There may be some changes in attitudes, of which I cannot now say more. What I now fear is its misdirection, giving it the potential of a Reichstag fire. I have feared this all along, and I now find, as they have in the past, some of the more vocal Commission critics unthinkingly taking the lead. That is why this book tells how the whitewashing was done, and by whom. I am quite confident I am right.

It includes a documentary on the staff that Epstein never approached and without the handicap of representing one faction. It tells the story of both! And the investigators, too. I've got some new stuff that is pretty good, too. Glad to hear Ray Marcus is doing a piece for NYReview on the bullet. If there is anything in WHITEWASH he can use, he can do so, with or without credit.

The NY TV thing is an outgrowth of the Alan Burke Show. It also earned Lane a similar show, already taped, to be aired after this "special". We had Jim Bishop of master of ceremonies. I fear I unwittingly wrote "A Night In The Life Of Jim Bishop" when he challenged the integrity of my information. Not the best treatment of the mc when the show is taped twice as long as can be used! There is now nothing but ugly nakedness left of Jacob Cohen. He is a miserable corruption of the intellect, an intelligent and well-educated man whose corruption is so essential that lies flow as smoothly and convincingly from his mouth as the serpent from its coil. He tried a bit of it in our discussion the night before and I pounced on him, hard. As

he left that night he turned to me and said, "I really owe you an apology for the way I behaved tonight. I'll be fair tomorrow". I assured him I had not doubt and that it was really a promise. Earlier, when I had taken him apart on one of his neat lies, that the other ignored, I told him if he dare pull such stuff on camera I would take him apart. Although I am not given to such seeming braggadoccio, I then sied, "You are in the right place to find out if I can and if I mean it. " The entire staff laughed. He has a tremenduous ego with it... When the taping was over he stalked out, right past me, eyes glued ahead, anger and frustration shrieking in dismay from every hair of his beard. If this show is aired in anything like its real-life form, we have heard the last of Jerry Cohen for a while. During one of the breaks, when I had just really demolished him lie, he turned to me in anger and said "I don't want you to talk to me again." I told him the way to guarantee that was to keep his lying mouth closed or to stick to the truth. That I didn t give a damn about what he wanted or what he threatened or claimed, when he lied I'd clobber him. His one protection was to stick to the truth. He was furious but unaided, save for the producer who protested, calmly, my use of the word "flippant" to describe Jerry's attitude. I acknowledged the error and promised a closer approximation of reality , and there it dropped. Until Jerry said, on camera, that the bullet from Tippit was traced to the pistol. Even Jim Bishop tried to protect him. To no avail. It was a bell. Lane pulled some shady stuff I should have stopped but didn't. That is a strange creature, a man who finds no lily not requiring his retouching. With all the good stuff there is, he has to lie about it for his ulterior purpose. Like saying Lovelady "testified" he was wearing a striped shirt. The truth is worse, that he was kept away from the Commission and wasn't asked by counsel. He tried to keep out the doctored films in my book, before I got there and on the air. I don't think he'll try anything like that again. "What do they mean" he asked, saying they had no importance, exactly the blunder of his book, which also says the sameof Willis#5. I'd prefer not to, but it is inevitable that he and I will soon tangle. I have heard too many of my lines coming back to me when he is on TV, and these are things not in his book. I'm satisfied his Appendix X is from WHITEWASH, that he could not face the ingominy of having missed the tag line on his own baby. Had he not put in the inappropriate appendix, Holt would have had to do the book over. Pictures were advertised but do not appear. Today I wrote Holt, Viking, Bantam and the NY Review. What a bunch of crooks. Now I think the time is coming for the bash, and I'm getting ready for it....No good news from England, where the subject is beginning to cook...Made the Italian LIFE (L'Europeo, approx.) last week with such reaction the NY correspondent was roused by his editor before daylight Tuesday to interview me. Fortunately, whoever he spoke to at the University of Michigan (his story) where I know no one or the Univ of Md (my wife's guess) knew the name of our farm, so we got together. A fine, perceptive man whith a well-used mind. It was a pleasure...Reports indicate WHITEWASH is doing well. Third printing should be completed. I plan to go to DC tomorrow and do some work there and I'll see...Viking sure dumped Inquest fast. Bantam's paperback is due in two weeks. Epstein would not show for the taping...That show may be out in two weeks, too, but they have a helluva editing job...to be syndicated, at least to Metromedia stations...The Altgens picture I got, according to the lab i used, was out of focus in enlarging. I've asked AP for better. No answer yet. I am satisfied there is a man and I am not satisfied what the object is. I haven't used it but it is in the book, so please, you Californians, tight lips....Those damed people like Cohen get me so coiled up I cannot sleep. The first night Penn Jones and I had a couple of drinks and I guess it was three before I got in bed, just because I couldn't sleep. Yesterday, with taping done at 4, it was 6:45, and little sleep before the drive home...Sylvia says she has heard Cohen is CIA.That would at least give motive. Nothing in his conduct disputes her...She says CBS has some interest in her stuff. I didn t have a chance to talk to her, but I wonder. They're read mine, liked it, and shied off.Maybe it's me...A large unnamed publisher wanted to read her stuff but decided to do a pro-Report book instead, by one of the counsel. That I'm looking forward to. Hope it is Liebeler! Mrs. Jones indicates Sylvia's disenchantment with Epstein over his resusal to show, but it is better. He was right. He'd have been a burden, a foil for Cohen. Cues that's all the news. Best to you all, and good luck, esp. to Mr. C.